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schema module. Such action might also include generating a particular error message and returning the error message to the node factory 102. By ignoring the information that is not understood by the schema module, parsing activities are made more efficient because this information does not have to be further processed by the server in order to build and return a response to the client. The server might simply return an error message that indicates that this particular information is not understood by the server.—

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In the Claims

Claims 1-33 are pending and are listed below:

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1. A method of parsing an Extensible Markup Language (XML) data stream comprising:

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defining a plurality of states, individual states being associated with individual elements of an XML data stream;

associating one or more rules with each state;

receiving an XML data stream;

evaluating the XML data stream against one or more of the rules for individual elements contained in the XML data stream; and

disregarding associated portions of the XML data stream if any of the rules that are associated with those portions are violated.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more rules relate to a schema of the XML data stream.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein: